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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1965

A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M.& H.,
Barrister at Law.
Medical Officer of Health.

J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1965.

Once again the vital statistics are satisfactory except for still births. When it is noted that the total number of cases involved is three it will be realised that great percentage of fluctuations are possible. However, the fact that they continue to be satisfactory from year to year does give them greater weight.

I am grateful to you, Mr.Chairman and Members of the Highways and Public Health Committee for the interest and co-operation you have shown during the year and I am most grateful to Mr.Mears, who is responsible for most of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.R.DARLOW

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1966.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1965

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M.& H.
Barrister at Law.

Surveyor, Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager - J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area	Acres 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1961	3,854
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year 1965 ..	4,420
Number of inhabited houses	1,521
Rateable Value	152,789
Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.66)	£650

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ampthill continues to change its nature from a small market town, and, in keeping with modern times, tends towards industrialization. There are several established light industries which are steadily increasing their output and buildings.

The town also serves as a dormitory for many workers who travel daily to Bedford, Luton and other large towns.

The town is fortunate in having so valuable an amenity as Ampthill Park. Here, and elsewhere, there are facilities for cricket, tennis, hockey, putting, football and fishing. There are several recreational societies in the town.

Heavy and consistent traffic through the town on the way to the M.1 is a burden and provision of a by-pass is eagerly awaited.

Fifty-eight private houses were completed and occupied during the year, the majority of these were on the Oliver Street, Warren Farm and Ampthill House Estates. Holland Road Estate was completed during the early part of the year. No plans were approved for any further private estate developments, but contracts were signed for 55 units of Council accommodation at Willow Way.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	55	53	108
Illegitimate	4	2	6
Total	59	55	114

Crude Birth Rate 25.6 per 1000 home pop:
Adjusted Birth Rate 24.8 " " " "
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.97)
As compared with -
Average for last five years 19.4 per 1000 home pop:
Rate for Bedfordshire 21.0 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 18.1 " " " "

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	1	2	3

Still birth rate 25.9 per 1000 live and still births
As compared with -
Average of last five years 12.7 per 1000 live and still
Rate for Bedfordshire 13.1 births
Rate for England and Wales 15.7

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
Deaths in the District	25	20	45
Transferred into District	14	10	24
Transferred from District	1	-	1
Total	38	30	68

Crude Death Rate 17.6 per 1000 home pop:
Adjusted Death Rate 11.6 " " " "
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.66)
As compared with -
Average of last five years 12.4 per 1000 home pop:
Rate for Bedfordshire 10.2 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 11.5 " " " "

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate 8.8 per 1000 related live births
As compared with -
Average of last five years 10.2 per 1000 related
Rate for Bedfordshire 18.4 " " live
Rate for England and Wales 19.0 " " births.

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1000 live and still births
As compared with -
Average of last five years NIL per 1000 total (live
Rate for Bedfordshire NIL " " and still)
Rate for England and Wales 0.25 " " births.

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CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODSOF LIFE DURING 1965.

	Cause of Death	Total All Ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year.		AGE IN YEARS 1		5		15		25		35		45		55		65		75 and over	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-																	1		1			
11	" " lung, bronchus	1	-																	1					
12	" " breast	-	2																1				1		
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	3	2					1										1			1			1	1
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1																				1		
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	8	10																			3	2	5	8
18	Coronary disease, angina	8	4															1	-	2	-	2	1	3	3
20	Other heart disease.	3	2							1													2	2	
21	Other circulatory disease.	2	-																	1				1	
23	Pneumonia.	2	4																				1	2	3
24	Bronchitis.	3	-																	1		2			
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	-	1																						1
32	Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	5	5	1								1	1				1					2	1	1	2
	Total all causes.	37	31	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	6	1	10	9	15	18

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS

	Male.	Female.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	-

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service.

Administered by the North East Divisional Health Committee - The Nurses employed are -

Mrs.P.R.Aspinal, 46 Holland Road, Ampthill. Telephone - Ampthill 2045.

Mrs.P.D.A.Cook, 34 Greenways, Flitwick. General Nursing only. Telephone - Flitwick 684.

Mr.K.F.Cripps, 189 Oliver Street, Ampthill. Telephone - Ampthill 3248.

Mrs.L.E.Stockbridge, 11 Arthur Street, Ampthill. Telephone - Ampthill 2261.

(b) Health Visiting Service.

Miss E.V.Maberly, 24 Lyme Road, Ampthill.

(c) Home Help Service.

Organiser - Mrs.V.M.Berckelaer, Health Centre, Union Street, Bedford. Telephone - Bedford 52207.

(d) Child Welfare Centre

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Friday afternoons.

(e) Immunisation Session

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Friday a.m. four weekly.

6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) Water Supply

Responsibility for the water supply of the District has now been transferred to the Mid-Beds.Water Board.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER

Parts per million:

Colour	NIL	Turbidity	3
pH	7.8	Odour	NIL
Electric Conductivity	500	Free Carbon Dioxide	5
Chlorine present as Chloride	.26	Dissolved solids dried at 180°C.	350
Hardness: Total 260: Carbonate	155	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	155
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.00	Non Carbonate	105
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.02	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid "	0.00	Oxygen absorbed	0.00
Metals: Iron	0.30	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Manganese	0.03		
Zinc, copper and lead:	Absent		

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

Better reports on samples of effluent were received due mainly to the improved operation of the Plant, but the Works will have to be enlarged to cater for the increase in population which will arise on completion of the proposed residential development.

During the year sewerage contracts were commenced to serve properties in The Avenue and Hazelwood Lane not already connected to a public sewer.

(c) Rivers and Streams.
No serious pollution took place during the year within the district.

(d) Closet Accommodation.
The number of premises in the town not having water carriage systems will be greatly reduced on the completion of two sewerage contracts which will be completed in the early part of 1966. Six properties in The Avenue were connected before the end of the year, reducing the number to 62 in the district served by cesspool or septic tank installations. Only two dwellings are now served by pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing.
Collection and Disposal of Refuse continues satisfactorily but it has not been possible to maintain a weekly collection due to sickness amongst staff and the inability to attract further suitable labour.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage.
It was not possible to salvage wastepaper during the year due to labour difficulties and the economic state of the market does not make this a worthwhile proposition for this Authority.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area.
The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	4
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation	-
Premises with insanitary and defective drains	5
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools	7
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	4
Premises with defective floors	2
Dirty Premises	-
Dangerous structure	1
Accumulations of offensive matter	2
Unsound meat and other foods	7
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	69
Other dilapidations	-
Number of Statutory Notices served	-
Number of Informal Notices served	18
Number of defective premises	14

(h) Shops and Offices.
No statutory action was taken in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites etc.
A number of Caravans were licensed on sites used in connection with Civil Engineering and Building Works. No other caravans, or moveable dwellings were licensed and no sites for moveable dwellings or camping are situated within the district.

(j) Smoke Abatement.
No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation. (Not rodent control)
No treatments were necessary.

7. HOUSING.

During the year no Council dwellings were completed or under construction, but plans were submitted and approved and contracts entered into for 55 dwellings and garages at Willow Way.

Fifty-eight private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Holland Road, Oliver Street, Warren Farm and Ampthill House Estates.

The following plans were approved under Building Byelaws -

26 dwellings
52 alterations to domestic premises.
9 alterations to business premises.
51 garages and carports.
10 conservatories.
1 conversion, office to domestic.
1 club-house for R.U.F.C.
1 sanitary accommodation for cricket pavilion.
1 Civil Defence Maroon Store.
1 Civil Defence Training Centre.

Town and Country Planning.

89 Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 67 were approved, 9 refused, 11 withdrawn and 2 deferred.

5 Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received, of which 2 were approved, 2 refused and 1 withdrawn.

8. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council have been able to improve this service by engaging our retired operator on a part-time basis, who has been able to devote more time to pest control whereas when in full employment little of his time was available for this work. An improvement has resulted both in survey and actual disinfestation and the number of treatments carried out during the year more than doubled the previous year's figures.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

		Premises	Visits Made
(a)	Shops		
	1. Ice Cream Vendors	13	26
	2. Bakers and Confectioners	8	20
	3. Grocers	4	12
	4. Fishmongers	1	4
	5. General Stores	9	24
	6. Butchers	5	21
	7. Dairies and retail milk distributors	2	4
(b)	Vans, Stalls and Hawkers	3	12
(c)	Catering Establishments		
	1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	11
	2. Industrial Canteens	-	-
	3. School Canteens	2	2
	4. Hotels.	1	6
	5. Outside catering contractors	-	-
	6. Fish and chip shops	1	4
	7. Others	-	-

(d) Manufacturing Establishments.

	Premises.	Visits Made.
1. Sausage Makers.	5	21
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers.	5	21
3. Bakehouses.	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers.	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers.	-	-
6. Others.	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

16½ lbs. Tinned Foods.
20 lbs. Ox Kidneys.
6 lbs. Mutton.

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the Butchers Shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five butchers shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Ice Cream Registrations.

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

(i) Food Hygiene Regulations.

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the regulations were being complied with.

10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification by Age Groups.

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital.
Measles	1	-	-	1	-

These columns depend for their accuracy on notifications received from general practitioners. Some of the diseases have now become so unimportant that there is nowhere near full notification.

Reporting of serious diseases is still complete and in this connection it will be noticed that there have been no cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, typhoid or other dangerous infectious disease.

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 35								
35 - 65								
Over 65								
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
8	6	-	4

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population

This District	-	NIL
Bedfordshire	-	1.8
England and Wales	-	4.2

11. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

There is a weekly visit of a mobile unit for chest x-rays on the request of a general practitioner. This unit is on The Sands, every Thursday from 12 noon to 12.30 p.m.

12. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, gives the Local Authority power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other suitable premises, persons suffering from grave chronic disease, and/or, who being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, or living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote to themselves or are not receiving from others, proper care and attention.

This Section was used once during the year to remove an old lady partially paralysed who was living in insanitary conditions and who could not fend adequately for herself.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diphtheria, is the responsibility of the County Council, and has been carried out at child welfare clinics and in the schools.

Immunisation against tuberculosis by B.C.G. is offered to school leavers and is given in the schools.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons Public Health Act 1936, Section 85.

Lice. No treatments were given under this section this year.

The bulk of the cases which might call for treatment is in school children with lousy heads, who are always treated informally by the school nurse.

There is an arrangement with the Borough of Bedford to treat general infestations at Barkers Lane, Bedford, at a cost of 30/- per treatment for adults and 17/6d per treatment for children.

Modern treatment of scabies no longer necessitates cleansing under this Section.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of -		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	9		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	42		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * excluding outworkers premises.	19	38		
Total	41	89		

* Institutions, Section 124, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND
(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars.	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature(s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1			
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total.	4	4			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work.	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

* * * * *